News-item "Free Cataract Surgery proves Expensive"

2907. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Free cataract surgery proves expensive", which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated 28th July, 2001;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether cataract operations performed at a Charitable Hospital at Ahmedabad will affect the eye-sight and cause severe vision problems of elderly persons;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government would conduct an inquiry into this episode; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) As per the initial report received from the State Government, 45 cataract operations were performed at Hargovandas Prabhudas Eye Hospital, Naroda run by NGO Sadvichar Parivar Trust during period 7th July 2001 to 14th July 2001. This hospital has been approved as the base hospital for cataract surgery since 1996.

Out of the 45 cases operated, 33 had developed post-operative infection. Out of the 33 patients who developed infection, 23 needed hospitalization. In 14 patients vitrectomy was done and in seven patients evisceration was done. The following steps are taken by the State Government:

1. A committee has been formed to investigate the mishap and report within15 days;
2. All the affected patients were provided latest treatment and follow up;
3. Explanation of the Trust has been asked for;

4. Samples of the drugs used in the operation have been taken;
5. Remaining stock of the drugs have been sealed;
6. Surprise checking of the factories supplying the drugs located at Ahmedabad and Vadodara have been carried out; and
7. All District Blindness Control Societies (DBCS) have been instructed to follow strict aseptic precautions to prevent future occurrences of such mishaps.

Misleading claims regarding Dabur Chavanprash

2908. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chavanprash sold by Dabur is making misleading claims;

(b) whether it is a fact that Chavanprash contains other than label claims; and

(c) whether Government propose to check the prices of such products?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Manufacturers of Chavanprash (including Dabur) generally make therapeutic claims which are drawn from the features mentioned in respect of such items in the classical books of Ayurveda.

(b) Dabur Chavanprash is a Patent Proprietary Ayurvedic Medicine. The manufacturer has informed that Chavanprash contains the ingredients mentioned on the label.

(c) Ayurvedic medicines are not under price control.

National Ayurvedic Hospital at Sarita Vihar, Delhi

2909. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:
SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to set up a state-of-art National Ayurvedic Hospital at Sarita Vihar, Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the specialized Ayurvedic treatment likely to be made available at the proposed Ayurvedic Hospital; and